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VICTORIA,
PAST
AND
PRESENT.



Something about the advantages
which the City offers, viewed from
business, residential and tourist
standpoints. = = = = =



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1900
B86

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND BOARD
OF ALDERMEN.



Ald. Hall.

Ald. Brydon.

Ald. Stewart.

Ald. Cameron.

Ald. Beckwith.

Ald. Yates.

Ald. Kinsman.

Mayor Hayward.

Ald. Cooley.

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
1900.



An Old View of Victoria.

VICTORIA, PAST AND PRESENT.



Pioneer SS. Beaver.

Old Hudson's Bay Co. Fort.

Victoria is situated at the southern end of Vancouver Island. The fort is a square enclosure of one hundred yards, surrounded by cedar pickets twenty feet in height, having two octagonal bastions, each containing six six-pounder iron guns, at the north-east and south-west angles. This is the best built of the company's forts." From another source it is learned: "The building is even now (1846) though plain to a fault, imposing from its mass and extent, while the bastions or towers diminish the tameness which its regular

THE foundations of the present City of Victoria were laid in 1843. It was June of that year when the "Beaver" landed a small force and the Hudson's Bay Co. fort was erected. In 1846, Colonel Halloway reported, "Fort

Early History.



Bastion, Victoria Fort.

outline would otherwise produce. The interior is occupied by the officers' houses, or apartments they should rather be called, stores, and a trading house in which smaller bargains are concluded, tools and agricultural implements, beads, shawls, blankets, and all the multifarious products of

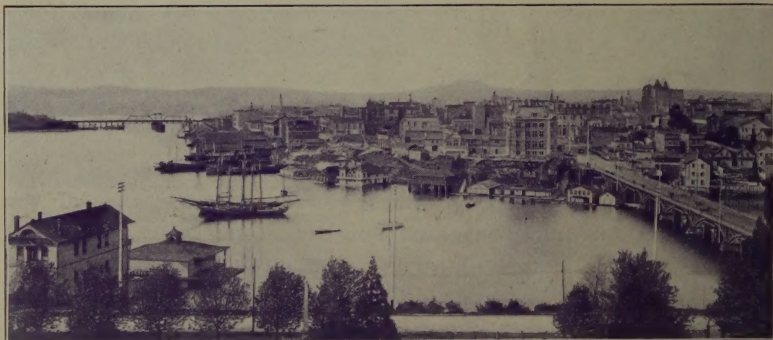
Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds are offered for sale."

In 1852 Victoria was laid out in streets, then bounded on the west by the harbour, on the east by the present Government Street, on the south by the old fort and on the north by Johnson Street. Beyond these boundaries were fields, all under cultivation. Outside the fort there were but twelve houses within the city limit. In 1853 some two hundred additional colonists arrived and at the close of that year it is estimated that there were in Victoria and the vicinity three hundred whites.

**As It Was in the
Fifties.**

**Population Forty
Years Ago.**

In 1861 the population had grown to 3,500 whites, English and Americans predominating. During the next two following years considerable progress was made, as early in 1863 the population is reported at 6,000. The buildings numbered 1,500, including substantial warehouses, stores, commodious hotels, a "theatre, a hospital, five churches and five banking-houses."



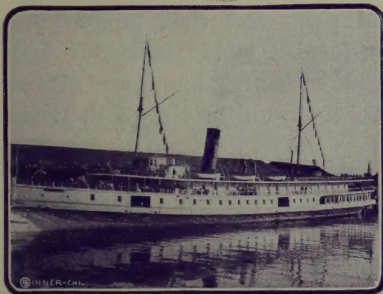
James Bay, Victoria Harbour.

The sudden growth was the result of the discovery of gold on the Fraser River in 1858. Victoria was the first and last place of call for the miners, who arrived from California and elsewhere in thousands. Of this floating population no notice has been taken in the figures given, but it may be stated in passing that 30,000 has been estimated as the number camping at one time at Victoria en route to the Fraser River.

Effect of Gold Mining.



SS. Islander—Victoria and Vancouver.



SS. Victorian—Victoria and Seattle.



SS. Empress—Victoria and Orient.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the importance of Victoria as a commercial centre was recognized from the first.

Incorporation was effected in 1862, the city being divided into three wards. The population was then about 5,000. To-day the residents are more than five times that number and it is safe to assert that considered per capita Victoria is the wealthiest city on the Pacific Coast.

A City of Wealth.

From mercantile and trade reports it will be seen that nowhere is business conducted on a more sound and profitable basis. The volume, too, ranks high. For comparison it may be stated that the shipping of Victoria is the fourth largest in the Dominion of Canada.

Business Conditions.

No Fear of the Future.

The question will arise, "What can 25,000 people do with so much merchandise in addition to what is produced on Vancouver Island?" The answer is easy, "They consume what they need and distribute the remainder." As Victoria was the distributing centre *par excellence* fifty years ago, so to-day she is the chief distributing

point for the whole of British Columbia. Victoria merchants supply goods to every part of the Province, including the northern gold fields of Atlin and the Yukon beyond.

Although transcontinental railway cars do not enter the city, Victoria is under no disadvantage, for first class steamers meet the trains at the mainland termini every day and bring freight and passengers from eastern Canada and United States points, the rates being the same as if destined for railway terminals on the mainland.*

A Terminal Point. At the close of the salmon canning season, fishermen and others come to Victoria and spend their earnings. It is in the fall of the year that the population is increased largely, by the return of wage earners who have been out in all directions and who then come home to live in comfort during the winter months.

An Industrial Centre. Local industries, such as iron works, flour and feed mills, chemical, soap and paint factories, lumber mills and several others, furnish employment for many hands. The proportion of factory hands and artisans is unusually large for a city of the size of Victoria.

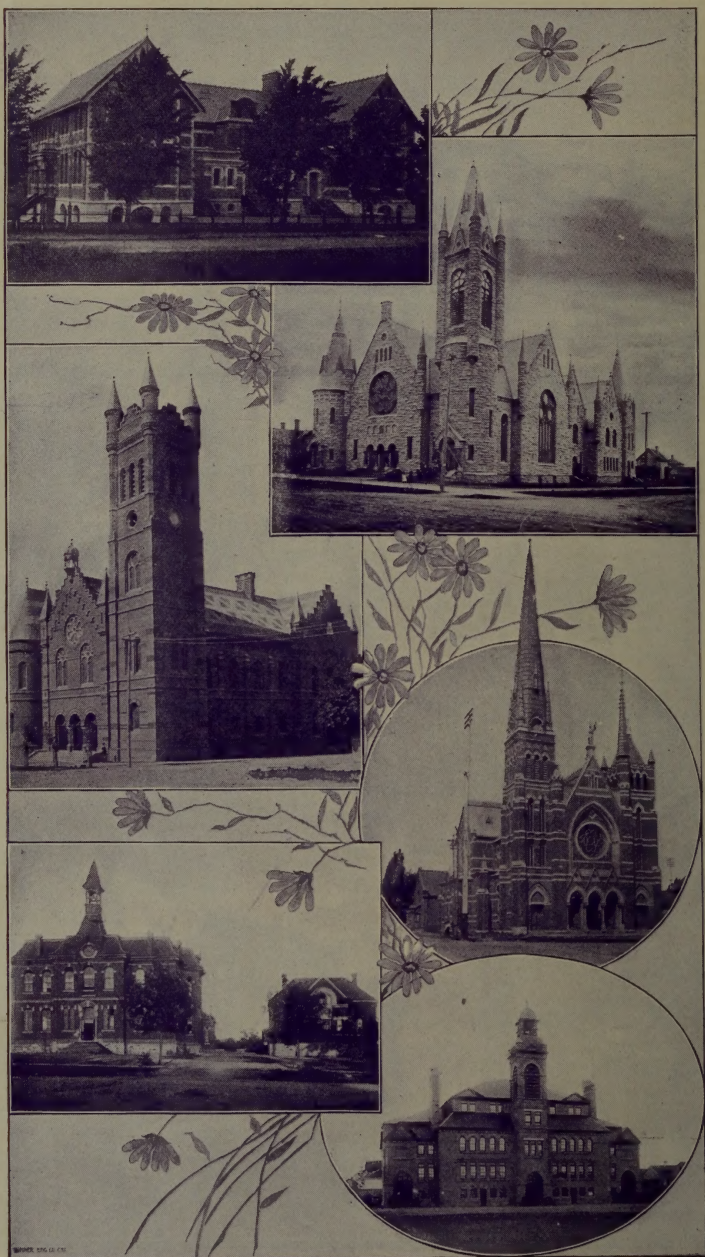
It is impossible to state whether the fur traders of the early forties selected Victoria's situation for other than geographical reasons, but it is certain that a more ideal site for a large city could hardly be found. Its natural beauty and adaptability to the purposes of commerce and residence, are remarkable. The land undulating slightly gives easy grades to the streets and admits perfect drainage and sewerage. Within certain limits only stone or brick buildings can be erected, and the numerous recent additions of such structures furnish indications of confidence which the owners have in the future of the city.

A Beautiful Natural Site. In one respect Victoria differs very materially from most cities inasmuch as the business blocks and dwelling houses are nearly all owned by residents. These are rented as freely as elsewhere, but the rents go into the pockets of the inhabitants, and it is certainly a great advantage to business men to pay to residents, instead of to some outside capitalists, as such rents return again either directly or indirectly in trade.

*Arrangements are now completed whereby the cars of the Canadian Pacific and Great Northern Railways will come to Victoria.



Public Buildings and a Residence, Victoria, B. C.



Some Churches and Schools, Victoria, B. C.

The city corporation has borrowed money for improvements, such as waterworks, sewerage, electric lighting, etc., but here it will be found that the assets of the city are largely in excess of the liabilities. Taxation is very light compared with other cities in Canada or the United States.

Excellent free and non-sectarian educational facilities exist for children six years and upwards, nor

is there any charge for advanced education in the High School. These schools are controlled by trustees, of both sexes, elected by the ratepayers. Besides the public schools there are excellent private schools, day and boarding, including kindergartens.

The liberality of the citizens, assisted by the Provincial Government and city corporation, has provided a hospital of fifty-six

beds known as the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital. This was erected in 1890 in commemoration of

Her Majesty's Jubilee, and it ranks high in

every branch of medical and surgical science. The private rooms, which are, of course, paid for, are frequently occupied



The Gorge on Queen's Birthday.

by persons from all parts of the Province and neighboring State of Washington, who come to Victoria for the greater skill than is found nearer their homes. The poor of the city are treated free.



Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Hospital Accommodation.

Climate is an important consideration when deciding upon a place of residence or a pleasure trip. The rain fall at Victoria is light compared with other parts of the Province. Snow is an infrequent visitor and even then seldom lies on the ground more than forty-eight hours. So it is easy to understand why four dollars per hour is charged for sleighing, which but at best is an apology for an eastern sleigh ride. Skating can be rarely indulged in and when possible is carried into the small hours of the morning, as those who enjoy skating must make the best of their opportunities.

**Perfect
Climate.**

The prevailing winds in the summer are from the south-west, and passing over the snow-capped Olympians and the Straits of Fuca are comfortably tempered upon reaching the south end of Vancouver Island. Dr. Bryce in "The Climate and Health Resorts of Canada" says of Victoria: "The fruits of temperate climates grow well and farm animals live outdoors the year round. The climate is milder than in many parts of England, with less rain and less seasonal variations." Instead of spending holidays far from home in search of health many Victorians camp out on sea beaches near the city for some months each year.

**As a Health
Resort.**

It is the common remark of visitors from the United States that Victorians have mastered the art of combining business with pleasure. It would, indeed, be surprising if such were not the case, for no one acquainted with Victoria and surroundings would gainsay that there is not another spot on the Pacific Coast where nature has so abundantly provided for the pleasure seeker. Victoria has unequalled natural advantages in picturesque location and climate, and for commercial and industrial purposes is not less favorably situated. It would be beyond the scope of this article to attempt to describe the beauties of Beacon Hill park and the residential portion of Victoria. A feature of the residences is the spacious grounds in which they are set. The ordinary size of the Victoria lot is 60 by 120 feet, but the better class of suburban houses stand in lovely grounds measured by acres. In many cases only a peep here and there can be obtained from the highways, trees and shrubs affording the privacy which seems so much desired. It is not difficult, however, to outline beautiful homes with tennis courts, well-kept lawns, trained ornamental trees and cosy arbors of evergreens. Many such residences command a view of the Straits of Fuca,

**Paradise for
Pleasure Seekers.**

**Beautiful
Homes.**

*In
Beacon
Hill
Park.*



*In
Beacon
Hill
Park.*



*A
Residence
on
Dallas
Road.*



*A
Gorge
Residence.*



*A
Gorge
Residence.*



about seventeen miles wide, and the snow-capped Olympics beyond. The entire changes of scene, for instance, on Rockland Avenue are very remarkable, a little turn in the road bringing to view numbers of islands instead of the unbroken expanse of water. Ships being towed to the lumber mills, steamers speeding to all points of the coast and to the Orient and to Australia, and

Panoramic and Picturesque.



*The
Gorge
Bridge.*

pleasure yachts flitting hither and thither, give life and peculiar interest to the scene. The brush of no artist could depict the beauties of such scenery under the ever changing lights.



Deadmans River.

Victoria is the seat of the Provincial Government and the home of the Lieutenant-Governor, and in addition to the merchants and business men of Victoria there are a number of wealthy residents whose business interests lie in other parts of the Province, but who elect to live there in order to enjoy the social and other

advantages of the capital. The **Social Advantages.** Garrison and Naval forces add a pleasant feature to Victoria society not elsewhere possessed on this

*In
Drydock.*



Esquimalt Harbour.

side of the continent. There are three social clubs in flourishing condition.



Victoria Harbour.

Among the amateur organizations for purposes of entertainment it is difficult to say which takes the

lead, but the Arion Club, a musical society of some fifty male voices, is perhaps the best known and longest established. There are also local theatrical and orchestral societies, and amateur theatricals and concerts in aid of charities and other objects are numerous, and their success is best judged by the invariably large audiences which they attract. There is a first class cornet band in connection with the local militia organization and during the winter months there is a weekly promenade concert in the Drill Hall and in the summer two or three open air concerts are given every week in the park and adjacent resorts.

A Music Loving People.

There are excellent golf links. Tennis, cricket, yachting, lacrosse, football, boating and canoeing are among the favorite summer amusements. Bicyclists and amateur photographers—their name is legion.

Athletics and Sport.



Goldstream Sketches.

There are so many attractive spots in the neighborhood of Victoria that it is really difficult to decide among them for superlative merit. If boating be selected a trip up the Gorge will probably be chosen. This is a stretch of about four miles of tidal water, varying in width from thirty feet at the Gorge bridge to about a quarter of a mile. On either bank near the city are beautiful residences, with ample grounds and picturesque boat houses. Then come stretches of fir trees and rocks and further on cultivated fields. Picnic

Points of Attraction.



In the Park.

parties revel in the shade of the firs and there are as well many ideal open spaces for those who desire to use them.

If we take the electric car to Oak Bay, three miles from the centre of the city—and by the way, to Victoria belongs the honour of being among the first cities on the continent to adopt electric cars—we shall find a well appointed summer hotel, and sheltered beaches where children may find delight in sunning themselves after paddling in the sea. Boats for hire are available and the surroundings generally are

**Oak Bay
Resort.**

such as are sought by tourists. There are many residences at Oak Bay and along the route of the car line, and in addition to the resident population there is in the season a constant stream of visitors by car, carriage and bicycle. Frequent band concerts enliven the evenings there. One of the golf links and an enclosed park for lacrosse matches and bicycle races, for which a cinder path is provided, are located at this resort. Oak Bay is also reached by the Dallas Road,



Near Macaulay Point.



*The
Gorge.*

*Outer
Harbour.*



*Oak
Bay.*

a fine thoroughfare which skirts the sea all the way from the Outer Wharf, passing through Beacon Hill park and along the golf links. There is probably not another road on the Pacific Coast possessing equal charms for driving or wheeling. It is good at all seasons of the year and the rare scenic effects are ever present and striking.

It would require the pages of a pretentious book to do justice to all the numerous drives within twenty miles of Victoria. These are always well kept and afford equal facilities for all popular modes of locomotion.



*Some
Residences*



*and
Park Views.*

Esquimalt, Her Majesty's naval station on the Pacific, is four miles from the post office, and is connected by electric cars which leave every fifteen minutes. The men-of-war, dry dock, naval yard and canteen grounds are the principal attractions, but the scenery all along the car line and at the village of Esquimalt itself possesses a singular charm which never fails to make a lasting impression. Naptha launches and row boats can be hired and a visit made to the naval hospital, passing the marine railway en route. The water in the harbor is never rough.

Saw Mill.



Outer Wharf.



Flour Mill.



Sealing Fleet.



Sealing Fleet.

The barracks at Macaulay Point are situated a short distance from the Esquimalt road. Visitors are not allowed inside the fort, but the scenery from the vicinity, embracing the entrance to Esquimalt harbor, the straits and the Olympias, is very beautiful indeed.

Macaulay Point Barracks.

Two railways terminate at Victoria. The Victoria and Sidney runs to the end of the Saanich peninsula, distance seventeen miles, and is of value to the farmers of that district in marketing their products, and for tourist purposes. Sidney should be visited, as it is a very pretty spot and some idea can be formed en route of the agricultural possibilities of the island.

Railway and Steamboat Connection.

Hops, barley and fruit do remarkably well in this section. An hotel is situated near the railway terminus. Steamer connection



On the Beach, Dallas Road.

is made between the railway and the gulf islands and points on Vancouver Island as far north as Nanaimo. The sea is rarely rough and the grand and everchanging panorama of view as the steamer winds its way in and out among the numerous islands must be witnessed to be fully appreciated.



Camp on Cowichan River.



E. & N. Railway Views.

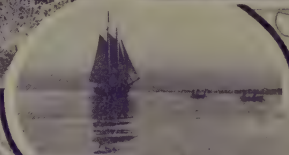
The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway at present has its terminus at Wellington, though its extension to the north end of Vancouver Island is contemplated in the very near future. It serves the finest collieries on the Pacific Coast. At Chemainus there is one of the largest and best appointed saw mills in British Columbia from which is marketed about half of the lumber exported from the entire province. Not far from Chemainus copper mines on Mt. Sicker are being opened up from which ore is being shipped. Large iron deposits are also being developed.

Near Chemainus, too, is the new town of Ladysmith, at which place are erected the coal bunkers for the output of the big extension coal mine at Alexandria, and where many of the miners have their residence. A railway to haul the logs to the Chemainus mill has been built in this section and a tramway runs from the Mt. Sicker mine to Osborne Bay.

Mineral deposits of copper and gold have been located at other points on the southern end of the island and development work is progressing with satisfactory results. Large stretches of farming lands are



Views on Cowichan Lake and River.



*In the
Straits of
Fuca.*



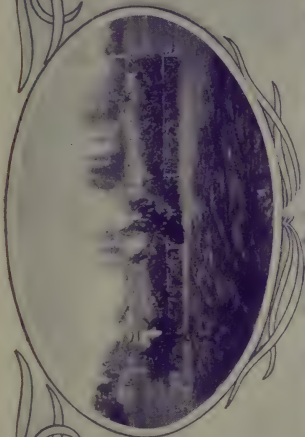
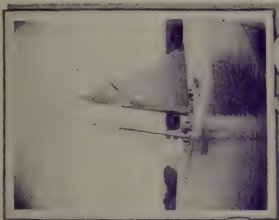
*Hunting at
Shawnigan
Lake.*



already under cultivation and much more remain to be opened up. All these important industries are tributary to Victoria, the head office of most of the collieries and railways and mining and lumber interests being established there. The very beautiful

scenery along the E. & N. Railway attracts many excursionists from Victoria. Sportsmen in quest of game and fish drop off at different places all along the line for miles, and this is in season one of the favorite Saturday afternoon recreations. The steeplechase track at Colwood is distant eight miles.

The Sportsman.



A
Few
Sporting
Pictures.





A Corner, of the Provincial Museum.

Goldstream on the line is another favorite resort. There occasional band concerts amuse those who do not care for sport, and a well appointed hotel furnishes refreshments and accommodation for visitors. A trip to the waterpower works should be made while here. This power generates the electricity for Victoria's car service, private lighting and commercial purposes.

Shawnigan, farther on, is a popular camping place, and is visited by numerous excursion parties. There are two good hotels, and small summer cottages can be rented. The lake furnishes good fishing and the surroundings are an entire change from the coast.

It is a common practise to leave the train at Shawnigan and wheel to Duncan, fourteen miles further on. The road is shaded and parklike in places, with easy grades all the way. Numerous well kept farms adjoin on both sides, and that portion which passes through the Indian reservation has especial interest. There are two hotels at Duncan close to the railway station, and it, too, is a very popular resort and the headquarters for many sportsmen. The river affords excellent fishing and of deer and birds there is an abundance.

The trip to Cowichan Lake from here should not be missed. The

distance
Cowichan Lake. is about 20 miles and the journey is made by stage. The attractions are hunting, fishing and scenery.



Cowichan River Bridge.

The west coast of Vancouver Island

is reached by rail to Nanaimo and thence by stage across to Alberni, or by steamers which leave Victoria regularly at frequent intervals. All the south and west coast of Vancouver Island is rich in minerals—gold, copper, silver and iron.

West Coast of the Island.

One of the objects of great interest to all visitors to Victoria are the beautiful new parliament buildings, in which the people of British Columbia take a special pride, and conspicuous among the attractions afforded by a visit to these buildings is the Provincial Museum, which has the distinction of being the best exposition of local fauna and flora to be found anywhere on the continent.

Provincial Museum.



Suburban Camping.

In the parliament buildings there is a Bureau of Provincial Information, also a complete collection of specimens of British Columbia minerals.

With so many important tributary resources the future of Victoria is assured. Its present growth is steady, a fact which



A
Day's
Catch.



affords greater satisfaction than if a "boom" was experienced.

The Basis of Prosperity.

Besides its commercial growth the number who come here to reside is steadily increasing, and it will undoubtedly become the residential metropolis of the coast and especially of British Columbia. The tourist travel is a very important factor in the prosperity enjoyed by Victorians, and deservedly so. This may be divided

into two classes, namely,

The Tourist Travel.

those who visit the city regularly every year, of whom there is a large number, and those whose visits are irregular and occasional. Of the latter, passengers on the Australasian and Oriental steamers in-

wards and outwards, and visitors from eastern Canada and eastern parts of the United States swell the aggregate travel, which is yearly growing larger in volume.

The object of this article is to interest the stranger in search of a good business, a desirable place of residence or an attractive tourist resort, and incidentally to refresh the memory of persons acquainted with Victoria, but who are now living elsewhere. Victoria, the Capital city of British Columbia, can supply all the requirements of visitors, and any information of a specific character will be cheerfully imparted by

F. ELWORTHY, *Secretary,*

Board of Trade Building,
Victoria, B. C.

British Columbia Board of Trade.

VICTORIA DIRECTORY.

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To and from theatres, three or four persons.....	2 50
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To funerals, when the time does not exceed three hours .. .	3 00



The Provincial Government Buildings, Victoria, B. C.



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